

Appl. No. 10/679,554

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1859

II. Remarks

Claims 1 through 5 and 7 stand rejected and claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1). Claims 1 and 7 are being cancelled, and claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are being amended. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 2 through 6 remain pending.

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The undersigned acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 6 if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 6 is being re-presented in independent form including the limitation of the base claim (claim 1). Specifically, in addition to the limitations of original claim 1, claim 6 requires an accumulation region having a terminal end sloped relative to the entrance of the accumulation region so that separated oil flows from the entrance towards the terminal end.

Further, claim 1 has been cancelled, and claims 2, 3, and 5 have been amended accordingly to depend from claim 6.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 2 through 6 are allowable and such action is respectfully requested.



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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 through 5 and claim 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,421,708 to Utter et al. (Utter).

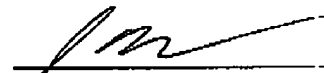
As discussed above, claim 6 has been re-presented in allowable form including the limitations of claim 1, and claims 1 and 7 have been cancelled. Further, since claims 2 through 5 depend from claim 6, directly or indirectly, the reasons for allowance of claim 6 apply as well to the dependent claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and allowance of claim 2 through 6 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims (claims 2 through 6) are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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